

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 10206 061614Z

53

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
IO-13 EUR-12 /130 W

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P 061545Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0829

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 10206

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, CG, OPEC

REF: A) KINSHASA 9724; B) STATE 290668

1. DURING MEETING DECEMBER 4 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA, I REFERRED TO OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSION ON OPEC OIL PRICES (REF A) AND ASKED TO WHAT EXTENT HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE AN ISSUE AT THIS WEEK'S OAU MINISTERIAL MEETING IN KINSHASA. NGUZA SAID THAT, WHILE HE ANTICIPATED CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION IN VIEW OF THE EVIDENT CONCERN AMONG AFRICAN STATES, HIS SOUNDINGS INDICATED FEW OF THEM WERE INCLINED TO RISK DIRECT ARAB-AFRICAN CONFRONTATION BY FORMALLY RAISING SUCH POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE ISSUE AT MINISTERIAL MEETING. NGUZA THEREFORE THOUGHT BEST TACTIC WOULD BE TO LOBBY DISCREETLY OUTSIDE CONFERENCE HALL WITH OAU MEMBERS OF OPEC. NGUZA REITERATED HIS INTENTION TO RAISE MATTER PERSONALLY WITH GARBA OF NIGERIA AND YAKER OF ALGERIA, AS WELL AS WITH GABONESE AND LIBYANS. HE BELIEVED NUMBER OF OTHER AFRICAN REPS WOULD DO THE SAME.

2. AS FOR OAU ACTION, NGUZA THOUGHT MOST THAT COULD BE GENERATED
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 10206 061614Z

WOULD BE INCLUSION IN FINAL CONFERENCE DOCUMENT
OF APPEAL TO OPEC TO GIVE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF AFRICA SOME
KIND OF RELIEF FROM ANY NEW PRICE INCREASES. HE INDICATED THAT
GOZ WOULD AT A MINIMUM PUSH FOR SOMETHING ALONG THAT LINE.
I REITERATED OUR CONTINUING CONCERN RE WORLD-WIDE EFFECTS OF
PETROLEUM PRICE INCREASES AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR GOZ'S
EFFORTS TO TAKE WHATEVER CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION IT DEEMED FEASIBLE.

3. COMMENT: AS ANTICIPATED REF A, NGUZA'S ORIGINAL IDEAS FOR
GOZ TO TAKE LEAD IN RAISING THIS ISSUE WITHIN CONTEXT OF OAU
MEETING SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MODIFIED SOMEWHAT. FOR POLITICAL
REASONS OF ITS OWN, GOZ OBVIOUSLY WANTS TO HOST SUCCESSFUL CON-
FERENCE AND MAJOR INTRA-AFRICAN DISPUTE ON THIS ISSUE WOULD NOT
CONTRIBUTE TO THIS END. MOREOVER, GOZ PROBABLY STILL
HAS HOPES THAT ARAB PRODUCERS CAN IN SOME WAY
BE INDUCED TO BE MORE GENEROUS WITH THEIR RICHES,
IF NOT BY PROVIDING MORE BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE
AT LEAST IN CONTEXT OF SOME KIND OF GENERAL RELIEF
FROM OIL PRICE INCREASES FOR DEVELOPING STATES. IF GOZ
PERCEIVES THAT NEITHER OF THESE PROSPECTS ARE LIKELY TO MATERIALIZE,
THEN IT MIGHT BE INCLINED TO TAKE MORE PROMINENT STAND
IN OPPOSITION TO PRICE INCREASES THAN NOW SEEMS
TO BE THE CASE.
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